July 10, 2006

TO: **State Homeland Security Working Group**
                State and Local Officials
                County Emergency Management Directors
                Area Development District Executive Directors

FROM: **Thomas H. Arnold**
                Director of Training Programs and
                State National Incident Management System Compliance Officer

RE: **NIMS Alert July 6, 2006 (NIMS Public Information Systems Training)**

IS-702 National Incident Management System (NIMS) Public Information Systems Training

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.
This includes public information.

The public information systems described in NIMS are designed to effectively manage public information at an incident, regardless of the size and complexity of the situation or the number of entities involved in the response. The goal of this course is to facilitate NIMS compliance by providing you with the basic information and tools that you need to apply the NIMS public information systems and protocols during incident management.

This course is designed for local and State public information officers and takes approximately three hours to complete. Federal public information officers, as well as, private-sector and nongovernmental organization personnel are encouraged to complete the training also.

At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:
* Define NIMS public information systems to include onsite operations, the Joint Information System (JIS), and the Joint Information Center (JIC), and how they relate to each other.
* Describe the JIS/JIC process of gathering, verifying, coordinating, and disseminating information by public information and incident management personnel.
* Identify each agency involved in given emergency situations and the role of each in the JIS to ensure appropriate situational awareness information is communicated to the public.
* Define key terms related to public information systems to include the relationship with multiagency coordination systems and the field.
* Identify typical resource requirements for public information systems.

The course can be accessed through the FEMA Independent Study Program at
http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is702.asp
A downloadable classroom version of the course will be posted on the FEMA Independent Study website upon completion.

You can learn more about NIMS and the NIMS Integration Center at http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims.